

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following recitation of pending claims.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the multi-user radio communication system defines a ~~point-coordination function~~ contention-free period, and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is transmitted to a single selected one of the first and the at least second ~~selected~~ one of the mobile stations, ~~respectively~~.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein said signal generator further generates a power correction information signal for transmission to the single selected one of the mobile stations, the power connection information signal of a value representative of an amount at which the selected one of the mobile stations is to communicate the communication signals.

4. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the ~~multi-user radio communication system further defines a~~ contention free period comprises a plurality of definable sub-periods, wherein the point-coordination function forms a portion thereof and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is generated during ~~the point-coordination function period~~ at least one of the plurality of definable sub-periods of the contention free period.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4 further comprising a mobile-station power-level calculator positioned at the selected one of the mobile stations, said mobile-station power-level calculator operable responsive to the

value of the transmit power indication signal and to the value of the power correction information signal to calculate a power-level at which communication signals are to be generated by the selected mobile station.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 6 wherein the radio communication system defines polling periods during which the network infrastructure polls a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least the second mobile station and wherein the power correction information signal is transmitted to the selected one of the first and at least second mobile stations, respectively, when the network infrastructure polls the selected one of the mobile stations.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 8~~ In a multi-user radio communication system having a network infrastructure with which a first mobile station and at least a second mobile station communicates data, the data forming portions of communication signals transmitted at selected power levels, an improvement of an assembly for facilitating selection of the power levels at which to transmit the communication signals, said assembly comprising:

a signal generator coupled to the network infrastructure, said signal generator for generating, during selected intervals, a transmit power indication signal for transmission to at least a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least second mobile station, the transmit power indication signal of a value representative of a maximum allowable power level permitted of the selected power levels at which to transmit the communication signals;

wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.

10. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 1 ~~9~~ wherein the multi-user radio communication system defines a ~~distributed coordination function~~ contention period, and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is transmitted to all of the first and at least second mobile stations, respectively.

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11. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the ~~multi-user radio communication system further defines a~~ contention period comprises a plurality of definable sub-periods, wherein the distributed coordination function period forms a portion thereof and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is generated during the distributed coordination function period at least one of the plurality of definable sub-periods of the contention ~~free~~ period.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 11 wherein all of the first and at least second mobile stations transmit communication signals at power levels substantially corresponding to the maximum allowable power level indicated by the value of the transmit power indication signal.

13. (Currently amended) They assembly of claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein ~~the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast and~~ wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals is broadcast as a field within a beacon-frame body of the beacon signals.

14. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the radio communication system is operable generally pursuant to an IEEE 802.11 a communication standard which that defines a point-coordination-function contention-free period and a distributed-coordination-function contention period and wherein the transmit power indication signal is transmitted in a first manner during the point-coordination-function period contention-free and in a second manner during the distributed-coordination-function contention period.

15. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the first manner by which the transmit power indication signal is transmitted comprises transmission to a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least second mobile station.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) In a method for communicating in a multi-user radio communication system having a network infrastructure with which a first mobile station and at least a second mobile station communicates data, the data forming portions of communication signals transmitted at selected power levels, an improvement of a method for facilitating selection of the power levels at which to transmit the communication signals, said method comprising:

generating, during selected intervals, a transmit power indication signal of a value representative of a maximum allowable power level permitted of the selected power levels at which to transmit the communication signals, and

transmitting the transmit power indication signal to at least a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least second mobile station

wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.

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18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the radio communication system defines a ~~point-coordination-function~~ contention-free period and wherein said operation of transmitting comprises transmitting the transmit power indication signal to a selected one of the first and at least second mobile stations, respectively, during the ~~point-coordination-function~~ contention-free period.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the additional operations of sending a power correction information signal to the selected one of the mobile stations and selecting operating power levels at which communication signals are transmitted by the selected one of the mobile stations responsive to values of the power correction information signal and of the transmit power indication signal.

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20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the radio communication system defines a ~~distributed coordination function~~ contention period and wherein said operation of transmitting comprises transmitting the transmit power indication signal to all of the first and at least second mobile stations, respectively, during the ~~distributed coordination function~~ contention period.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the transmit power indication signal broadcast as part of the beacon signals is broadcast as a field within a beacon-frame body of the beacon signals.

22. (New) In a radio communication system having a network infrastructure for wireless communication with a plurality of mobile stations, wherein the radio communication system defines a contention period and a contention-free period, an improvement of apparatus for power management, said apparatus comprising:

a signal generator coupled to the network infrastructure, said signal generator for generating a transmit power indication signal for transmission to at least a selected one of the plurality of mobile stations;

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wherein the transmit power indication signal has a value that varies as a function of whether the signal is to be transmitted during a contention period or a contention-free period.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator and broadcast as part of the beacon signals is transmitted as a field within a beacon-frame body of the beacon signals.